

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A material management apparatus comprising:

an estimated use amount number-in-use calculating part configured to calculate, based on data of an operating manufacturing line, an estimated use amount number-in-use of said material to be used, including apparatus parts, in a unit period of time;

a stock management part configured to determine a current stock number of said material ~~manage stock of said material on data~~; and

an order management part configured to output data on an order amount ~~ordering~~ number of said material to order based on data of said estimated use amount number-in-use ~~from said estimated number-in-use calculating part and data of~~ and said a current stock number ~~of said material from said stock management part~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said estimated number in use calculating part has:

a first operation part configured to calculate an endurance limit of said material based on data of ~~the~~ a number of wafers processed in a unit period of time and data of an amount of ~~the number~~ of said material used in processing said wafers in said unit period of time; and

a second operation part configured to calculate said estimated use amount number-in-use based on data of a ~~the~~ number of wafers to be processed and data of said endurance limit from said first operation part.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a storage part configured to store data of plural predetermined items about said material, wherein said stock management part performs stock management of said material by referring to said data stored in said storage part, and

said order management part performs order management of said material by referring to said data stored in said storage part.

Claim 4 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising: a storage part to store data of plural predetermined items about said material, wherein said material includes chemicals,

said storage part further stores masters having plural management items including items needed in managing said apparatus parts and items needed in managing said chemicals, and

said stock management part manages, per said material as a management object, by selecting a specific item from said plural management items.

Claim 5 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said plural predetermined items include an item about storage place of said material.

Claim 6 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said plural predetermined items include an item about expiration date of use of said material.

Claim 7 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said plural predetermined items include an item about expiration date of use of said material currently used within a processing apparatus.

Claim 8 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said plural predetermined items include an item indicating whether said material is currently a management object or not.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising:

a display part configured to separately display, on different screens, a stock management data of said material that is currently a management object and a stock management data of said material that is currently not a management object.

Claim 10 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 3 wherein

said plural predetermined items include an item indicating whether or not said material is a material usable by repetitive reproduction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising:

a display part configured to separately display, on different screens, an order data of said material to be purchased and an order data of said material to be reproduced.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said order management part outputs data of said order amount ~~ordering number~~ of said material based on data of said estimated use amount ~~number in use~~, data of said current stock number, and an upper limit value of said order amount ~~an ordering number~~ that is defined by a predetermined expression.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 12 wherein

said upper limit value of said order amount ~~ordering number~~ is defined by said predetermined expression using a delivery time of said material as a parameter.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 12 wherein

when said material is a material having a quality assurance period, said upper limit value of said order amount ~~ordering number~~ is defined by said predetermined expression using, as a parameter, a delivery time and said quality assurance period of said material.

Claim 15 (Original): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said order management part determines an order time of said material based on a predetermined expression using, as a parameter, an actual number used of said material in a unit period of time, a delivery time of said material, and said current stock number of said material.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The material management apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said order management part outputs data of an said order amount ~~ordering number of said material~~ by converting the unit of said material adopted within said material management apparatus, into the unit of said material adopted by a manufacturer to which said material is ordered.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A material management method comprising the steps of:

- (a) calculating an estimated use amount ~~number in use~~ of material to be used, including apparatus parts, in a unit period of time, based on data of an operating manufacturing line;
- (b) finding a current stock number of said material; and
- (c) determining an order amount of said material to order ~~ordering number of said material~~ based on data of said estimated use amount ~~number in use~~ and data of said current stock number.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The material management method according to claim 17 wherein said step (a) has the steps of:

- (a-1) calculating an endurance limit of said material based on data of ~~a the~~ number of wafers processed in a unit period of time and data of ~~the number~~ an amount of said material used in processing said wafers in said unit period of time; and
- (a-2) calculating said estimated use amount ~~number in use~~, based on data of a number of wafers to be processed and data of said endurance limit.